

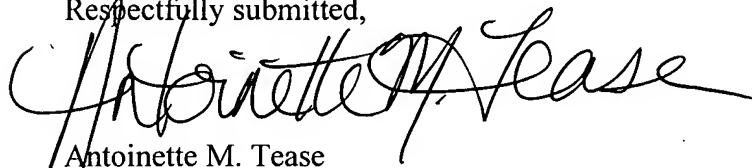
REMARKS

Claims 12 and 20 have been amended to add the word “dental” before “appliance.” Applicant believes that this amendment sufficiently distinguishes these claims from the invention described in U.S. Patent No. 6,087,549 (Flick, 2000), which makes no mention whatsoever of a *dental* appliance. The amendment of claims 12 and 20 should place the remaining rejected claims (13–16 and 18–29, which are dependent on claim 12, and 22–27, which are dependent on claim 20) in condition for allowance.

The examiner also objected to the form of claims 17 and 21. Claim 17 has been amended to delete the extraneous language inadvertently included by the applicant’s former patent counsel. With the amendment of claim 20 as set forth above, it should not be necessary to amend claim 21 to rewrite it in independent form.

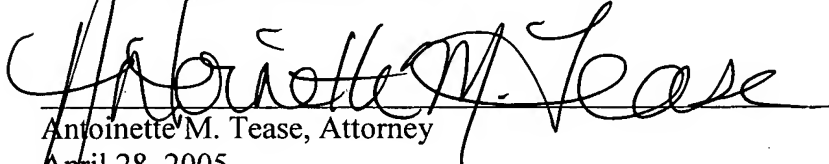
Lastly, the applicant has revised claims 13–17 to correct the incorrect dependent claim references made by the applicant’s former patent counsel. All of these claims should refer back to claim 12—not claim 11.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Antoinette M. Tease". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and contact information.

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Antoinette M. Tease, Attorney
April 28, 2005